

THE CHURCH OF GOD EVANGEL

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SCATTER SUNSHINE

In a world where sorrow ever will be known,
Where are found the needy, and the sad and lone;
How much joy and comfort we can all bestow
If we scatter sunshine everywhere we go.

Slightest actions often meet the sorest needs,
For the world wants daily little kindly deeds;
Oh, what care and sorrow we may help remove,
With our songs and courage, sympathy and love.

When the days are gloomy, sing some happy song,
Meet the world's repining with a courage strong;
Go, with faith undaunted, through the ills of life,
Scatter smiles and sunshine o'er its toil and strife.

—Lanta Wilson Smith.

*"That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke,
in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom
ye shine as lights in the world." Phil. 2:15.*

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NOTICES

We are both young preachers and feel the call to evangelize. We have had previous experience and desire to do God's will. We are full-fledged members of the Church of God in Greenville, S. C. Further information concerning us can be obtained by writing Rev. Roy Douglas, our pastor.—Brother and Sister Clemont Allen, 17 Wilson St., Greenville, S. C.

Change of Address of Ministers and Workers

Floyd J. Timmerman—31 Lewis St., Anderson, S. C.

If we repent seriously, submit contentedly, and serve Him faithfully, afflictions shall turn to our advantage.—Wake.

NOTES FROM MY LETTERS

By J. H. Walker, General Overseer

Another State Over the Top with Aged Ministers' Drive

Our ministers' meeting closed last evening and we had a glorious time. It was well attended and in perfect unity. The brethren adopted a nice program which will be carried out. A number of our new ministers went to the Assembly this year and saw what the Church was doing and they seem to be more enthusiastic about the work for the Church. We went over the top with our aged ministers' quota with about fourteen dollars over. Enclosed you will find bank draft for the amount of forty-four dollars. I am improving from the attacks very nicely.—J. L. Goins, overseer of Iowa. (Incidentally, Brother Goins suffered a severe heart attack immediately after the Assembly, but is better now.)

DO WE HAVE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST?

By Thos. G. Evans

A small booklet of thirty-one pages treating on the Baptism of the Holy Ghost from a scriptural standpoint. Price 25c.

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Order from Thos. G. Evans, Lanett, Ala.

M I N U T E S Of the 37th Annual Assembly

READY FOR MAILING

Price: single copy, 35c; 12 copies, \$3.75; 50 copies, \$12.50; 100 copies, \$23.00; 250 copies, \$55.00; 500 or more copies, 21c per copy. Order of Church of God Publishing House, Cleveland, Tenn.



This is the picture of the East Side Detroit, Mich., Sunday school. Our superintendent and a number of scholars were absent on account of working in defense plants. We were privileged to have Brother and Sister Ray Hughes for a revival. You will notice them at the extreme right in the picture. To the left you can see part of the parsonage we just recently purchased for the church. God is blessing the East Side church and Sunday school. Pray for us.—Mr. and Mrs. Carl Milligan, pastor.

God--the Strength of His People

HE giveth power to the faint, and to them that have no might he increaseth strength, Isa. 40:29.

1. This was said with primary reference to the captive church in Babylon; cut off from human aid, and abandoned to the will of her enemies, she was inclined to despondency, as though God Himself had forgotten His promises or was unable to fulfill them. It was in prospect of this that Isaiah was inspired to deliver and record for his admonition and encourage a considerable part of his interesting prophecy; and, among the most interesting parts of it, the passage which includes the text: "Why sayest thou, O Jacob, and speakest, O Israel, My way is hid from the Lord, and my judgment is passed over from my God? Hast thou not known, hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? There is no searching of his understanding. (He giveth power to the faint, and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.) Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young man shall utterly fall, but they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint."

These animating assurances and appeals are no less applicable to us (and to the people of God in all ages) than they were to the Jewish captives. Our strength, both for the purposes of our individual existence in the present world, and for the cause to which the true Israel from age to age is devoted, is not in ourselves, but in God alone. As this is obviously true with reference to whatever natural strength of body and of mind is necessary for these purposes, so also it is true especially and, as I apprehend, according to the spirit and design of the text with reference to the moral strength, the power of faith, the energy of purpose, the strength of holy fortitude, and patience, and zeal which they demand. It is with particular reference to this that it is said, "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; and they shall walk and not faint."

It may then be useful for us to dwell upon this truth, a truth cheering the humble, and one of which we all need to be often reminded — that God is the strength of His people.

Illustration

2. In illustration of this text, I would refer you first to the condition of the

By E. E. WINTERS *

people of God as being without strength. I do not speak of their natural capacity. Man was created in God's own image; and though fallen, he retains the faculties of his high Original. As an intelligent and moral being, he is possessed of godlike powers; but as to their proper result, he is feeble—in the language of an apostle he is "weak through the flesh," by depravity he is without strength, he has no might, and what man is, as fallen, such are the people of God, except as grace makes them to differ. Their moral strength, in respect to its source, is not in themselves but in God alone. In themselves they are without strength, whether considered in relation to their duties, their trials, or the cause to which they are devoted. They are without strength in relation to the duties incumbent on them. So Paul found himself to be. Hear his lamentation over himself: "To will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. . . . For I delight in the Law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members warring against the law in my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"

Such every person finds himself to be who understands the nature of the divine law, and endeavors with the same zeal and perseverance to obey it. That law demands not external morality alone, but internal holiness. The exclusion of all selfishness, pride, covetousness, and envy demands absolute purity of love, reverence, humility, submission, gratitude, and good will. Obedience to it on the part of fallen men involves a complete revolution in their governing intentions, affections, and motions, "A new heart and new spirit." To begin this, to break away from the dominion of sensible and worldly objects, and come under the influence of things invisible, spiritual; to renounce worldly ends, and seek as his main end the glory of God in doing good; to be no more conformed to this world, but transformed in the renewing of the mind, whoever has seriously made the attempt has found not to be of himself, but of the grace of God alone; and, having begun to persevere, he finds to require the continued influence of the same grace. The grace which he may have had yesterday avails not for today; the good impressions, the pleasant frames, the pure and pious intentions which he then en-

joyed could not perpetuate themselves. On the contrary, he is surrounded by influences which tend continually to draw off his mind from the objects of faith, dampen the ardor of his spiritual affections, corrupt the purity of his governing intentions, shake the constancy of his obedient purposes, and thus bring him down from the moral elevation to which faith had raised him, to a level with the men of the world. Hence the conflict the Bible supposes Christians to be engaged in. Hence their need of continual watchfulness and prayerfulness, and having done all to stand, casting themselves on God.

Our Need of Grace

3. The people of God, then, are without strength and I would now more directly refer you, second, to the fact that God strengthens them. By this I mean that He gives them not only the ordinary support of His providence but also special influences of His grace. He not only preserves them in being, sustains their intellectual and moral faculties, and affords them the moral restraints and influences which are common to men, but He vouchsafes to them the grace which is effectual to their performance in different degrees of the duties incumbent on them, their perseverance with joyfulness amidst the trials which befall them, and their successful prosecution of the cause of truth and holiness in the world. They are "strengthened by his spirit in the inner man;" "strengthened with all might according to his glorious power, unto all patience and long suffering, with joyfulness;" not merely capable, as other men are, of doing the will and subserving the cause of the Redeemer, but endowed by His Spirit with the moral energy, the strength of faith, love, fortitude, and zeal necessary for this purpose.

That God does, in this manner, strengthen His people appears from His promises and their experience. It appears from His promises, "Fear thou not, for I am with thee; be not dismayed, for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; Yea, I will bless thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." "My grace is sufficient for thee, for my strength is made perfect in weakness." "God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that you are able; but will, with the temptation, also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." "As thy days so shall thy strength be." "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord; though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down, for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand."

(Continued on page 14)

*Rev. Winters is pastor of the Church of God at Port Huron, Michigan

Religion and the World

By the Editor

Victory Prayer Meetings

Weekly prayer meetings are being conducted by the employees of the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad shops. The theme of these meetings, which have for years been practiced, is that of "victory." The "prayer for victory" theme was adopted after the war broke out.

—O—

Church Mergers

There has from years past been and continues to be a great effort to gather the churches into some form of federation or merger. This may seem practical for certain purposes, however, what the country needs is not a merger of churches, but a deep manifestation of practical religion displayed before the world. This is a great time for religion to prove its worth through consecrated workers and action.

—O—

Niemoeller

"Pastor Niemoeller in Germany and Bishop Berggrav in Norway are only two of the heroic church leaders whose names have become almost household words as a result of their own stalwart faith and the cooperation of the press in interpreting their faith and courage to the world," so says the News.

—O—

Starving Greece

The Greek Minister of Information reports that more than 350,000 persons have perished by starvation, malnutrition, disease, execution, and massacre in Greece. The Greek ambassador has expressed fear that unless a more effective means is found to feed the population, half of Greece's population of 8,000,000 may be dead before the war is over.

—O—

German Church Opposes Nazism

Dr. Samuel McCrea Cavert, General Secretary of the Federal Council of Churches, has reported, after his return from Switzerland, that there is a "strong core" of resistance by the German Church to Nazism. The fact that the Gestapo has not taken action against Protestant or Catholics, is due to such strong support of both churches. This is particularly true in France where the church has encouraged itself to stand up for the Jew." The hapless Jews in France have found their best friends in the churches."

—O—

Einstein and the Church

"The church today is the foremost champion of human liberty," he said,

quoting a remark made to him on one occasion by the scientist, Albert Einstein: "I am a Jew, but as a Jew I have to admit today that not the universities but the churches fight today for the liberty of the mind."

—O—

Ministers Petition Western Front

From New York comes news that 911 ministers have signed a petition asking for the opening of a "Western front." All who desire the defeat of the Axis desire a second front when it is strategically proper. I doubt if the clergy of the country is able to decide so grave and momentous undertaking. If they make no greater success as war counselors than many of them have as ministers, then their strength is to "sit still." If Russia and Germany whip each other, it will be a practical thing. Logically, they should. The blind should both fall into the ditch together. How tragic for these old cronies.

—O—

Hitler and the Jews

Undernourishment among Jews in two Lodz ghettos in Poland has reached a point where the Nazi authorities could not find sufficiently strong young Jews fit to serve in the special ghetto police force. Jews from other occupied areas of Poland had to be brought to Lodz to take up police duties in the ghetto. The Gestapo has ordered the closing of all remaining Jewish schools in Germany, according to a report by the Berlin correspondent of the Stockholm Social Demokraten. Jewish children over fourteen have been sent by the Nazis to do farm work in the Ukraine. Jewish communal buildings that had been used as schools were taken over by the Gestapo. From London the British section of the World Jewish Congress reports that more than 1,000,000 Jews have been killed or died as a result of ill treatment in countries dominated by Germany.

—O—

Jewish Mission Results

The late Dr. Thos. M. Chalmers, writing with regard to Jewish successes, states that according to the Jewish Yearbook the number of Jews throughout the world is over 16,000,000. In the 19th century 72,000 Jews accepted Protestant baptism, not to mention the 132,000 baptized into the Greek and Roman Catholic churches. This is one Protestant convert to every 156 of the Jewish population at the end of that century. The number of baptized converts among

the heathen and Moslem population in the same period was 2,000,000, or one to every 525 of the heathen and Moslem population. The same degree of success among heathen and Moslem as among Jews would have shown 7,000,000 of converts instead of 2,000,000.

Insidious Army

Dr. H. J. Ockenga, President, United Action, writing in "United Evangelical Action," says, "Hand in hand goes lust and immorality." The New York State Liquor Authority said, "The more alcohol, the more syphilis." Col. O. M. Baldinger, U. S. Army officer in charge of the Lockbourne Air Base near Columbus, Ohio, notified the authorities in Columbus that unless the situation was cleared up and the area made safe for his young men, he would do the job himself. Reports showed that the area had "the record for venereal disease in the entire fifth service command." He presented a list of establishments where liquor permits must be revoked and where dance permits be cancelled, and the authorities met his demand. In San Francisco, city officials, health authorities, and police, Commander Benton B. V. Scott, representing the vice-admiral, said, "We need action immediately." Our men take their last liberty here—then in a week or ten days many become incapacitated by disease and must be relieved of duty. Reporting further on the situation in the West Coast metropolis, Col. Raycroft said, "In one week 520 men turned up with venereal disease," "668 for one week in June." Baltimore and San Antonio are other cities which have a black rating in such vices.

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Rev. Brinsfield is overseer of Pennsylvania
and a member of the Mission Board.



Christian Diplomacy

J. Stewart Brinsfield

SAINT PETER was, without question, one of the most lustrous of the followers of Christ during His earthly ministry. He was also a most successful defender of the FAITH until the day of his death. Many times when we think of this great apostle our thoughts will invariably ramble along the paths of his impetuosity, or we think of his cowardice at the time when our Lord was being tried. The very fact that Peter was impulsive has illuminated his weakness, but if we are to see the real son of Jonas and the remarkable brother of Andrew, we need hunt very little in the pages of Sacred Truth to find that he was not a mere satellite of his contemporaries; but instead, his position near our Lord was among the three closest of the twelve.

Peter was seldom lacking in tact, no matter how awesome the occasion. He was not only super-eloquent on the day of Pentecost when three thousand souls were converted and the great Spirit of God was brooding over the hundred and twenty in the upper room, but he was equally fervent and brilliant under the heart-rending circumstances that prevailed when Jesus finished the great discourse on "THE BREAD OF LIFE." It was this same Peter who said, "To whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life." These words were spoken in answer to the query of our Lord after all the multitude had left Him, because of His teaching on the bread of life. Picture, if you can, the Son of God as He stood there with heavy heart after He saw the vast multitude reject His offer of the soul-sustaining manna from heaven. Picture Him as He turns to His own beloved twelve and solemnly asks them, "Will ye also go away?" It was a moment of trial. The twelve were not on the mountain top of success in their new way of life. Instead the great leader of their

souls was being rebuffed in a most ungrateful manner. Peter was never more inspiring than he was during this experience and he gave one of the most simple and yet the most logical answers that could ever be given as he confidently said, "To whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life." These words have inspired all of us when the devil tells us to turn from our Lord to some other path. I am sure you can see that this answer was not only sincere, but it was most opportune. None of us will ever know just how much of an impression these words had on the other eleven disciples. We will never know just how these simple words from this converted fisherman may have strengthened the hearts of his brethren. We only know that they have proven their worth to every generation since that time.

It is because of Peter's unusual ability to be the master of such extraordinary circumstances that I feel it proper to turn to him for guidance in studying Christian diplomacy. The First Epistle of Peter deals with Christian conduct and you will notice how beautiful his instructions are woven with the blessedness of our personal salvation and the immense price paid by Christ to redeem our souls from the powers of darkness. He reminds them of the fact that they are strangers and the very fact that he refers to them as being scattered was a beautiful way of saying that they were not a majority group. He hastens to assure them of the fact that they are exclusive, if not superior, numerically. To be a follower of the despised Nazarene was to invite privations and severe sufferings, so the emissary of the early Church was on hand to comfort the objects of these infernal assaults by Satan and to tell them that they were a CHOSEN GENERATION, A ROYAL PRIESTHOOD, A HOLY NATION, A PECULIAR PEOPLE, and that God had selected them to glorify His name.

Peter not only taught the people that Christ came to save sinners, but he also let them understand that being a Christian was the highest station in this life and would assure all the elect of God a station above the angels. In 1 Peter 3:15, he exhorts us to sanctify the Lord God in our hearts and be ready to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear. All of us should be prepared to do just that. Oh, the tragedies

that have beset the Church for want of a tactful presentation of the glorious truths of the Bible. In the shops, the mills, the schools, the homes, and on the streets many an anxious inquirer for the road to peace and happiness, has been side-tracked simply because we fail to heed the admonition of Jesus, who said, "Be ye wise as serpents but harmless as doves." We are told that the children of this world are wiser in their generation than the children of light. Certainly, our Lord knew what was coming when He gave these warnings. May God arouse us to the plain truth that we are the greatest adversaries of the cause we seek to champion. It is because we are not tactful in our approach to the problems we desire to solve. Many times we lose a member in our church because we fail to study Christian diplomacy in dealing with him. Paul tells us how we should deal with our brethren. Some of us are too easy and careless and others of us are too severe, too domineering. We tread where angels refrain from walking. Too often we are concerned more with self-defense than the defense of the gospel. Often the underlying cause of our blunders is that we are void of the accompaniment of the spirit of Christ.

While every nation on earth is spending millions of dollars for skilled men and women to represent their government in the dealings of international affairs, we, the ambassadors of the court of heaven, are blundering oftentimes in the most important affairs of all time and eternity. We hinder our own work by harsh dealings with our fellow Christians and by so doing we destroy the unity of the Church, which in turn renders us impotent. You have seen not only the ravages of such blunders in the local community of Christians, but its numbing influences are often felt in the ranks of the Christian ministry. The ministry is responsible for the widest rifts in all Christendom. Certainly the great writers of the Bible were cognizant of the many snares that the unwary would stumble into, which would wreck and divide the souls of men. "A good word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver." Many times someone who knows the art of "soft answers turning away wrath" can save a church from division which otherwise would be torn by men and women who sadly but certainly are void of the understanding which every true

(Continued on page 15)

MANY arguments arise concerning the subject of this article, while some even confirm and establish their doctrine by it. Others will interpret it in the light of what they hope it teaches. I am afraid that some guess at its meaning in order to avoid embarrassment when called upon for an answer.

Now, brethren, let's be consistent. We have no reason for "kidding" ourselves or holding to a personal opinion. Just remember that we have a desire to know the truth and let us lay aside for the time-being all previous or prejudiced opinion.

Undue Stress

A phrase omitted is a verse unfitted. On the other hand, a phrase greatly stressed often hides the rest. Nearly every explanation of Hebrews 6:1-6 that I have heard gives entirely too much stress to the words "fall away." Friend, if you insist on a difference between "falling" and "falling away," you are going to find yourself at the end of the road when you discover that these people could again be restored to God even though they had "fallen away." The words "fall away" need only to be mentioned, not stressed.

The Starting-Point

Just as the parable of the ten virgins cannot be understood without a knowledge of its pretext, neither can the first six verses of the sixth chapter of Hebrews be understood without a knowledge of its pretext also.

We find the starting-point in Hebrews 5:12 (preceding chapter). Read it carefully. "For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, YE HAVE NEED THAT ONE TEACH YOU AGAIN which be the FIRST PRINCIPLES OF THE ORACLES OF GOD; and ARE BECOME such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat."

Does not the author of Hebrews say in this verse that "by this time they should have been teachers themselves"? Does not the verse read that instead of them being teachers "they had need of being taught"? Does it not declare that they once were taught, and once had a knowledge of the first principles? If not, then why does the phrase read "ye have need that one teach you again"?

What did they need to be taught? According to the scripture it was "the first principles of the oracles of God." Are not these first principles mentioned in Hebrews 6:1-6? Is there not a connection between these passages? Then 5:12 is the starting-point.

Notice the verb "are become." That just simply means they used to be one thing but they "became" another. It indicates change.

Next, what did they become? And are become "such as have need of milk and not of strong meat." At one time they were able to partake of meat but

Hebrews 6:1-6

they became such as have need of milk. The following verses tell us why this happened and the verses of our text (6:1-6) tell us that they had "fallen away."

Just what is the main idea of Hebrews 5:12? What is the thing he is talking about? Here it is: TEACHING AGAIN THE PRIMARY EXPERIENCES (first principles) OF SALVATION TO THOSE WHO WERE ONCE SAVED, AND AFTERWARD BACKSLID. Now, all you have to do is to read it with an open mind. Just take the verse for what it is trying to convey to you. I promise you that I have nothing in the hat, nor anything up my sleeve, and truly there are no "gags" in the verse itself.

Let's follow up this twelfth verse while on our way to the sixth chapter. "For everyone that useth milk is unskillful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe." The word "babe" has absolutely nothing to do with being a new convert in Christ. It refers altogether to the lack of knowledge. They were at

Editor's Note: Brother Barnes has given a very fine exposition on the subject of "Renewal" of the Jewish or Gentile converts as mentioned in Heb. 6:1-6. Take time to study this subject if you wish your understanding to be sane and coherent.

one time in position to become teachers, but instead they became such as have need of milk, that is, they had become babes in knowledge and needed to be taught again the sincere milk of the Word—the first principles.

What caused them to backslide? They simply failed to develop their mental potentialities or exercise their senses through which we gain knowledge. This is proven in the next verse (5:14). "But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age (not a babe, but one who is intellectually developed), even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil."

If a Christian will develop his talents, use his reasoning power, and exercise his senses, he will grow in the knowledge of the Lord and become able to handle the Bible efficiently. (Who said you should not attend Bible School?) One who fails to develop his intellectual capacities will soon not be as able to discern between good and evil as he once was, consequently he will backslide and be overcome in the snare of his own ignorance.

We have now covered the pretext to Hebrews 6:1-6. Is it not clear to you that the author's central theme is that of "teaching again the first principles of the doctrine of Christ to those who were once saved, knew the truth, and then backslid"?

All right then! If we agree to that fact, is not the same truth to be acknowledged in Hebrews 6:1-6? Does not the same thought remain? Are not the same expressions used? Is not chapter six a continuation of chapter five? Therefore . . .

The Key Verse

You cannot overlook the third verse (Heb. 6:3) and hope to explain these passages, or even a part thereof. The third verse is the key verse. "And this will we do, IF GOD PERMIT." Have you ever wondered what this is that the author of Hebrews will do if God will permit it? In other words, he is willing to do a certain thing if he is sure that it is also God's will.

But what is that certain thing? Some say that it refers to a single phrase in the first verse of the chapter which reads "let us go on unto perfection." This is a mistake. This phrase means but very little except as the phrases before and after it are read with it. "THEREFORE LEAVING THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST, let us go on unto perfection."

There is no question as to going on unto perfection. Common reasoning tells one that God is not going to forbid you obtaining a "more perfect knowledge" of the secondary principles such as the truths of theology, of prophecy, and of philosophy.

Since we know beyond doubt that God will permit anyone to go on unto perfection at any time, the key verse cannot be referring to the phrase "let us go unto perfection." If it does, why did he say, "IF God permit"? There are no "IF's" in God's will, if growth is the question.

But what is the questionable thing? What, then, is the doubtful issue? All right, let's quote not only the first verse but the second also and then we will readily understand the third (key verse). "Therefore LEAVING THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST, let us go on unto perfection; NOT LAYING AGAIN THE FOUNDATION (1) of repentance from dead works and (2) of faith toward God, (3) of the DOCTRINE of baptisms and (4) of laying on of hands, and (5) of resur-

By

D. C. Barnes

rection of the dead, and (6) of eternal judgment."

What are all of those above enumerated phrases? Are they not doctrines? Are they not the first principles? Are they not the truths which he has once taught to the backsliders, who now have "need" of being taught again? Consequently, he says, "Therefore LEAVING THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST." In other words, "let us go on unto perfection, not laying again the foundation (first principles)."

Does not this first verse coincide with §:12 perfectly? One says "the first principles of the oracles of God;" the other says "the principles of the doctrine of Christ." One says "again;" the other says the same. If the pretext was talking about "teaching again to backsliders" does not this first verse teach the same thing?

But why does the author doubt that it would be God's will to preach, teach, and lay again the foundation, which be the first principles, "FOR THOSE WHO WERE ONCE ENLIGHTENED, AND HAVE TASTED OF THE HEAVENLY GIFT, AND WERE MADE PARTAKERS OF THE HOLY GHOST, AND HAVE TASTED THE GOOD WORD OF GOD, AND THE POWERS OF THE WORLD TO COME" (VV. 4, 5) and then fell into a backslidden state afterward?

The Reason Why

"FOR IT IS IMPOSSIBLE (for those who were once enlightened) IF THEY SHALL FALL AWAY, TO RENEW THEM AGAIN UNTO REPENTANCE." It is impossible for WHOM to renew them again unto repentance? US! Who is the US? The same "us" as found in verse one, "let US go on unto perfection . . . for it is impossible (FOR US) to renew them again unto repentance." In other words, there is not much good to be accomplished in preaching to those who have already known the truth, even if they are backslidden. "Let US go on." There are so many who are not saved and have not heard the truth that a preacher might be out of God's will by preaching it to the same ones again.

Proof From Grammar

So you object to my inserting the words "FOR US" between the verbs "fall away" and "to renew," do you?

Now, brother, don't get too fast, because I have you trapped before you start. Let's quote the phrase again, ". . . if they shall fall away, TO RENEW THEM again unto repentance . . ."

It is an example of ACTIVE VOICE—the OBJECT "them" being acted upon by the subject. "Them" is the OBJECT of the VERB "to renew," but where is the subject of this verb? It is the SUBJECT that is doing the acting upon, therefore we must find the SUBJECT in order to know whether it is impossible for GOD to renew them again, or for THE TEACHING OF MAN to renew them again. If GOD is the SUBJECT of the VERB "to renew," then there is no hope for the backslider. If MAN is the SUBJECT of the VERB "to renew," then hope still remains even though one is backslidden.

Do we find any word in verse six to serve as the SUBJECT of the VERB "to renew"? No, for the word "they" is the antecedent of "them;" i. e., they are the same group of people. Do we find one in the fifth verse? There is no SUBJECT in the fifth verse, for all the VERBS in verse five have for their SUBJECT the word "those" of the fourth verse.

Again we have returned to the key verse (V. 3). "This will WE DO, if God permit." Who is going to perform the DOING, provided it is God's will? It is WE that will DO. The only question in their mind is "IF God is willing." Well then, there must be some pretty good reason for thinking it might not be God's will, and that is "WE" cannot renew them again unto repentance by preaching to them again the things they once had in their own heart.

"We" is in the NOMINATIVE CASE and would be the SUBJECT of the VERB "to renew," if it could, at the same time, be the OBJECT of the PREPOSITION "for" which must be inserted to make sense. It is incorrect to say "for we," but one should say "for us." The "us" is the same group of people as the "we," but "we" cannot be the SUBJECT of the VERB "to renew" and also the OBJECT of the PREPOSITION "for" in any instance, or at any time. But the word "us" CAN serve both purposes and it is here in Hebrews six that it does.

But where do we find the word "us" in these verses? In the first verse, my friend, in the first verse—"let US go on unto perfection, not laying again the foundation (doctrines)." Don't you see that it is the "we," or rather the "us" that is in action? Well, glory to God, I'm about to get happy, hallelujah! Just a minute, brother, let me get back to normal.

All right, here goes the meaning of whole six verses when the grammatical difficulties are ironed out. Hold on, here goes! "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let US go on unto perfection . . . for it is impossible for those . . . if they shall fall away, FOR US to renew them again unto repentance." By inserting the SUBJECT beside its VERB we are able to understand the passage clearly.

Fall Away

If the statement of the author had been expressed in "passive voice," those who stress and emphasize the words "fall away" would be consistent in doing so. In the "passive voice" it would read, "It is impossible for those . . . if they shall fall away, FOR THEM TO BE RENEWED AGAIN unto repentance." The object becomes the subject of the verb "to renew." Thus, the words "fall away" WOULD mean "forever lost, without hope and without redemption." But it cannot mean that for it is not written in "passive voice."

Then what DOES the term "fall away" mean? Let me ask YOU a question, What did these backsliders once have? They fell, my brother, from what they used to have. Their former experiences are found in verses four and five. "Those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, IF THEY SHALL FALL AWAY . . ." Fall away from what? From the experiences which he just named beforehand. These are no different than the experiences which we have, and those who fell from them were no worse than the backsliders today. Let's be consistent, brethren, and not go to other places or sources for interpretations when they are to be found in the very scriptures that are being discussed.

Crucifixion

One more thing, preacher, and I believe I can accept your explanation. All right, what is that one thing, brother? It is the latter part of verse six—"seeing they CRUCIFY TO THEMSELVES the Son of God afresh, and put him to AN OPEN SHAME."

Yes, I thought that was it. Like many other scriptures, this one is also exaggerated and is interpreted by reading your own feelings into it. This is easy to understand, if you will stop long enough to reason.

This verse contains no condition more than that of any other backslider. When you came to God and was cleansed by the blood the "old man" was crucified. No longer did the principle of sin reign in your heart, but a principle of holiness. The "new man" resided in the heart.

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FAITH--How To Put It in Practice

1. PRAISE

WHEN I promise my boy I am going to take him fishing in the morning, he believes it, and he acts as if he believed it. He gets all his lines ready. He tells his boy friends he's going fishing with daddy in the morning. He goes around whistling. He asks numerous questions and recalls past days—all about fishing. He reminds me to retire early. He gives every evidence that his mind is very much upon the forthcoming fulfillment of the promise his daddy has made him. And many minutes before the alarm goes off in the morning he is at my bedside whispering, "Daddy, Daddy, is it time to get up?"

And folks who have faith in the PROMISES of God act like it. Did you ever hear a person praying, "Oh, Lord, I do hope there is a heaven," or, "Dear Jesus, I surely hope you are coming again some day"? No, indeed! not among holiness people. Why, we believe in heaven and in the second coming of the Lord! Sure! Why, any time a pastor wants a sure fire sermon, just let him tell the folks about heaven or about the soon coming of Jesus and they'll shout. Why? Because by FAITH they have it in their hearts. They already have the substance and evidence of heaven and of the soon coming of Jesus planted deep in their souls. Well then, why is it that these same precious folk will take another equally mighty promise of God and pray over it like this: "Dear Jesus, I do hope that you will heal my body," or, "Lord, you have heard and answered prayers so often, I do hope you will save my son"? Is it not because that great inexplicable faith which has permeated their whole being and caused them to shout with great joy about the place, heaven, and the coming event, the advent of Jesus, neither of which they have yet seen, has never succeeded in getting an equal faith grip in their hearts to accept with a joyous shout of praise the other promises of God?

Faith Tested and Rewarded

Then let us say, that one of the mightiest secrets of prevailing faith, of putting faith in practice, of ever increasing faith, is to shout the victory in the face of the devil; to just take the promises of God for whatever it is we want, pray through on it and then go around happily praising the Lord about it. What do you suppose I would have thought of my boy if he asked me three or four times, "Daddy, are you sure we are going fishing tomorrow?" and later, when asked if he had his things ready, "Well, no, they weren't sure whether you in-

tended to go or not"? Well sir, I would have thought that he didn't have much faith in his father's promises, or else he just wasn't much interested. And I wonder if God doesn't sometimes think that of our lack of enthusiastic response to His promises.

Well, Brother Archer, you don't want me to shout and praise God when I don't feel like it, do you? That would be like not praying except when you feel like it. That's just when one needs to pray, and praise, when he doesn't feel like it. That's where your faith is put into action.

Tested Again

We were in a revival in Los Angeles, and, as was my custom, I announced nightly FAITH messages to precede the regular service by one-half hour. The response was splendid and for three weeks I gave these nightly preliminary mes-

thing was welling up within. "PRAISE YOU, JESUS! HALLELUJAH!" — the more I praised the less the head throbbed and the happier I felt until I hit the pulpit preaching. When Sister Archer came in I was going full blast and she was smiling. She said it was the best faith message I ever did give. It is my firm conviction that here is one of the greatest secrets of a successful faith life, the secret of praise to victory. Now let's see what the Bible says about it. The scriptures and illustrations are so numerous that I cannot possibly use them all.

Admonished To Praise

Paul tells us in 1 Thess. 5:16-18, "Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks; for this IS THE WILL OF GOD in Christ Jesus concerning you." The Psalms are, of course, full of instructions and illustrations of praising the Lord under all circumstances. No doubt one reason God loved David so was because he was so full of praise to his God.

The children of Israel were in a tough spot when they reached Jericho. They were promised the city, but they must first encompass it once a day for six days and on the seventh go around it seven times. They all had to march. There was no evident sense in it. They were no doubt hot and dusty and disobedient by the end of the sixth day. The soldiers on the walls must have hooted them to scorn. Then on the seventh day, when that weary group has been asked to get up before breakfast and make a seven-time march, I imagine that if that crowd had had a right to vote they would have put poor old Joshua out right there and got them a new General Overseer. And then to top it all off, when they finally dragged their weary feet the last mile of the seventh trip, Joshua said, "Well now, folks, 'SHOUT; for the Lord hath given you the city'" (Joshua 6:16). I can't, by any stretch of the imagination, believe that those folks felt like shouting. They had been doing this for seven days. The only difference they could see was that they were far more weary. The walls were still there and the enemy still jeering. But something in the confident faith of their leader inspired them and they expressed their faith in the promises of God in the face of all evidence by SHOUTING, and Paul tells us that "by FAITH the walls of Jericho fell" (Heb. 11:30).

Now I do not wish to appear unsym-

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By J. W. Archer



Foreign Missions



CIVILIZATION IN THE BALANCE

This article was written by Dr. J. Hutchison Cockburn, Moderator of the Church of Scotland, Edinburgh, and I thought it was good enough to pass along to you.—M. P. Cross, Executive Mission Secretary.

The day is long past when thinking men disapprove of missions. Opponents of missions are as out-of-date as any set of men in the world. It is open to individual Christians to prefer this or that type of missionary enterprise. It is even open for them to criticize some of the methods of certain mission work, because the Christian Church is still learning the business of missions and has to go through trial and error in order to find the best way. But it is not open to a Christian to object to the missionary enterprise of the church as if it were something that the church could prosecute or neglect as it likes and which is open to a Christian to support or not according to his whim.

The fundamental facts of the case are: (1) that Christ laid mission work upon His followers and the matter therefore is not open to discussion. "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (2) By its very nature the Christian religion is a universal religion. Jesus Christ claimed to be the light of the world, and it is not, therefore, open to any man who claims His name to believe or act as if he believed that while the Christian religion was good for the United States, for Britain and for some other chosen countries, it was too good for the races of mankind. The kind of tolerance which talks of all religions as good for those who practice them, to the exclusion of the claim of Christianity to be best of all religions, is just not to understand the nature of Christianity and its demands. (3) The turmoil in the world today reinforces the claims of Christ and Christianity. More and more men and governments are coming to see the true meaning of the crisis in which we are. Either the world must learn to practise the Christian values and verities and give to God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ His due place in the world, or mankind will go down into a dark night of tyranny, driven by a godless state or equally godless totali-

tarian and aggressive power. No terms can be made between Christianity and the dictator powers which would dominate the world. Our whole civilization is in the balance and when we have won the war it will still be in the balance unless Christianity gives vision and impetus to the victors.

For these and for other reasons, even in time of war when there are so many other claims upon us, the members of the Christian Church must prosecute the missionary endeavor and recognize in it one of the great formative forces of the new world struggling to birth.

MEN AND MISSIONS SUNDAY

Sunday, November 15, is set aside as Men and Missions Sunday. I trust that all of our pastors will prepare something special on missions for that day. Surely, in these trying times, we need to keep up the spirit of mission. It seems to me that the world needs a greater knowledge of Christ just now than at any time I can remember.

Not only do we need to plan for our mission program at present, but also for a program to spread the gospel to the ends of the earth when the war is over, if the Lord should tarry that long.—M. P. Cross, Executive Mission Secretary.

Overseer's Visit an Encouragement

ST. LUCIA, B. W. I.—We, the members and friends of the New Testament Church of God, Castries, St. Lucia, have been favored by a visit from our much esteemed overseer, Bishop J. B. Winter, who came to us from Barbados on the Schooner Marie Henratta on Tuesday morning, Oct. 13. We were very glad to see him and his presence has proved a great help and encouragement to us here. On Sunday, the 18th, we had a most glorious day with the Lord. At seven in the morning we had a baptismal service when four believers were buried in water baptism at 11:00 a. m. The new members were received into fellowship and we also had the holy communion. In the afternoon at 3:30 we had a Thanksgiving service, which proved a great help and blessing to the church.

We surely have enjoyed the messages of our overseer. Our souls have been richly watered. We all regret so much

that his visit had to be so short. We are meeting with much persecution from the enemy and ask that you pray much for the work here in this needy part of your mission field and that God will help us to soon be able to get our own meeting room in which to worship God.—Thalma A. Stoute, evangelist.

REVIVAL AT BARBADOS, B. W. I.

Dear Church of God family, God has been in a most wonderful way blessing us here of late, with some good old-fashioned revivals among some of our churches during the month of September. A report just to hand from Grave Yard shows that they have closed a good revival with fine large crowds in attendance and believers richly blessed. Seven souls were saved during the revival.

At the River Road Church, although the pastor has been ill for some time, they report a good revival running for three weeks, which resulted in four backsliders being reclaimed, three saved, three sanctified, and the whole church mightily helped and blessed.

At the Bank Hall Church there has also been two weeks of wonderful meetings in which ten were saved, and one received the blessing of a clean heart. On Monday, September 21, the meeting room was crowded to overflowing. This being the Tenth Annual Anniversary of the Young People's Mission Band, it proved to be a most inspiring service, and a very good report was read by the secretary, telling of what had been accomplished by the young people during the year.

The Breretons Church has also had a powerful revival running three weeks. Crowds have been fine, and the singing and preaching has been in the Spirit. The people have been mightily convicted, and twenty-seven have been to the altar seeking God and pardon. Breretons have a very fine Spirit-filled choir master, and they surely did some real good singing. One could not be otherwise than blessed when the choir sang "Pray the Clouds Away" and "God Is Still on the Throne."

Dear ones, remember your missionaries and the work here in these hard and needy islands of the sea, for by His assisting grace our aim is to be one hundred percent Church of God, so bear us up before the Throne.—J. B. Winter, overseer.

The gospel has never refuted any people want to sin.

College Class of 1942-43



What can we as Christians do to help win this war? This question was answered by a few of the college class of B. T. S. Following are some of the articles written by them.

The Christian's Responsibility in the Present Crisis

History records that the known world has been enveloped in war several times; and now after four years of ruthless conflict the "blitzkrieg" warfare of totalitarian dictators continues to gain momentum. Every nation is affected, and practically every major power is involved in the death struggle.

The war will affect the Church in several ways. Almost every Christian family is grieved by the loss of a brother, son, nephew, cousin, uncle, or even a father. Many of these relatives will never return to their homes. The Christian home is affected as all other homes. The Christian did not start this wholesale massacre of humanity, but it becomes his solemn duty to put forth every effort toward the preservation of our way of life. God's people have fought some battles that had the endorsement of God. However, in each case it was God's just people against the unjust. If our cause is right, then it becomes our duty, as men, to protect or defend just principles. God is not pleased that His take the lives of other men. But you do not have to be on the battlefield to kill your fellowman. Hatred in your heart makes you a murderer.

The promulgation of the war should be Christian's motive. The government of the United States

your conscientious scruples by granting you other than combatant service. The suffering of millions of men, women, and children can be alleviated by men and women who are willing to face the cannon and death itself to administer first aid, medical attention and, above all, salvation in the time of suffering and death. The nation's need is also great on the home front. First-aid supplies are needed, and many other articles that tend to help and encourage the wounded and dying. Lighted Pathways, Evangelists, and Testaments can be mailed to the Army camps.

The Christian can sacrifice many so-called daily necessities, which in reality are luxuries in the present crisis. The savings on these luxuries should be invested in bonds and saving stamps. This nation, which the Pilgrims and Puritans founded, and for which they suffered privation, is certainly worth any sacrifice today. They went to church with their guns on their shoulders to protect them from the savage Indians. Their purpose in this country was to establish religious freedom. They sacrificed their homes and homeland for this privilege. We should be willing to sacrifice in order to maintain this heritage of religious toleration. Christians, above all citizens, should be economical in the use of their automobile tires, gasoline, and other rationed articles.

Last, but no means least, it is our responsibility to pray for God's will to be carried out in the conflict. The Word says, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Do you

believe that? If so, we should earnestly pray for our relatives and friends that they may be saved if they fall in battle for their country. According to the Bible, it becomes our duty to pray for our rulers and national leaders. Have you earnestly, sincerely, and effectually prayed for President Roosevelt and the deliberations of our Congress? Here lies an important obligation, even a command, that can only be carried out by the Church.—Vessie D. Hargrave.

The Problem of the Christian Man

A problem is facing the young Christian men of today. We do not want to do anything that would be contrary to the will of God; yet we feel a desire to protect what we have enjoyed in our lifetime for those that are coming after us.

God has a great work for all that will follow His will. The people that will live after this present conflict should have the same privilege to serve God as we have had, but unless we fight and put forth every effort to win this war, that privilege will be taken from them.

Now, the problem that we are facing is how we are to fight, how we are to react to the call of service, and how we are to perform the duties that are placed upon us. The Bible says, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness without which no man shall see the Lord." How are we to follow peace with all men in a time like this? If we are to win this war, how are we going to be at peace with all men? And if we do not win this war, our religious freedom will be taken from us.

There is just one thing to do and that is to look to the Lord and follow His leadings; then we will come out victorious.—Perdue Stanley.

The Christian's Responsibility in the War Effort

This war is the most horrible and most serious war ever fought. We, as Christians, should pray as never before for our country, for our President, and for our boys in service. This country of ours is worth fighting for. Let us remember that this is about the only country that has freedom of worship.

Our Christian parents are giving their boys for this great cause. Parents, we must back our boys with our prayers if we expect them to come back victorious. Wouldn't it be a tragedy if they should fight, and then have to come back under the rule of Hitler.

We are sacrificing many of the luxuries that we once had. Sometimes we go to the store for something and they don't have it. "There is a shortage because we're sending it to our boys in service," they'll say. Many times we grumble, but let us not do that. Let us

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Requests For Prayer

We receive many requests for the salvation of relatives, loved ones, and friends, also for urgent unspoken requests. There are so many of these it is impossible to publish them, but we ask that all take them to heart and earnestly pray that the Lord will answer prayer in their behalf. In order for requests to be published they must be signed.

Pray For

The healing of Evan. Pauline Jackson who has been seriously ill for four weeks.—Mrs. J. M. Arnold, 590 King St., Charleston, S. C.

God to heal a neighbor of mine.—Mrs. Lois James, Oxford, Miss.

The healing of my body of cancer.—Mrs. Nayon Smith, Homerville, Ga.

My baby to be healed.—Ada Strickland, Dillon, S. C.

The healing of my shoulders, chest, heart and nerves.—Annie Mae Churchwell, Blackville, S. C.

My husband to be healed of asthma and saved.—Mrs. Lydia Figg, Box 23, Colesburg, Ky.

My nephew who is in the hospital to be healed of epileptic fits.—Mrs. Daisy Hollie, 321 Spruce St., Belmont, N. C.

The Lord to completely heal my body; my baby to be healed; my mother.—Mrs. Ruby Defoe, Rt. 1, Dalton, Ga.

Me to be healed of arthritis; my mother to be healed.—Miss Audrey Mineer, Newhall, W. Va.

Me to be healed of rheumatism.—Louisa Christian, Star Rt., Fort Payne, Ala.

My husband to be healed and filled with the Holy Ghost; my daughter.—Mrs. W. R. Wood, Rt. 3, Calhoun, Ga.

The healing of my afflicted body; my spiritual condition.—Leavah M. Prather, Box 65, Cantwell, Mo.

The healing of my body of a tumor, it is growing fast.—Cora Neace, Ranger, W. Va.

My baby to be healed; me to be healed; God to undertake for my husband.—Martha Page, Rhodhiss, N. C.

God to undertake and heal my body.—Mrs. Anna Despain, 603 N. Main St., Stuttgart, Ark.

Me to be healed of a severe stomach trouble.—Mrs. Mont Baisden, Box 219, Harts, W. Va.

My son who is in the asylum to be healed, D. V.—Mrs. W. E. Farbes, Rt. 1, Doddsville, Miss.

Me to be healed of head trouble and other ailments.—James K. Moore, 510 E. Virginia, Anadarko, Okla.

The Lord to completely heal my body.—Mrs. J. B. Young, McCormick, S. C.

My baby to be healed of enlarged gland.—Mrs. Zannie Potter, Rt. 1, Scottsboro, Ala.

Me to be completely healed of something like asthma.—Vertie Harkins, Rt. 3, Calhoun, Ga.

Me to be healed of heart trouble and other ailments; my nerves.—Mrs. Matilda Oakley, Rt. 5, Sulphur Springs, Tex.

I am an elderly woman sixty-three years old and desire salvation, pray that I will be ready when Jesus comes.—Mrs. Docia Berryhill, Rt. 3, Fitzgerald, Ga.

God to completely heal my body, I have been afflicted nearly two years; my faith to be increased.—Mrs. Lora Scarberry, Murphy, Miss.

The healing of Eddie Champ and Brother Andy White who are seriously ill.—Mrs. Betty Lively, 205 3rd St., Princeton, W. Va.

The salvation of my father, brothers, Jean, Bobbie Nell, Rena Mae Sistrunk and me. I am only thirteen but I realize the need of salvation.—Betty Jane Thrash, Walnut Grove, Miss.

The healing of my mother and dad, Mr. and Mrs. Andy Buckner, Rt. 3, Box 75, Monterey, Tenn., who are bedfast, mother is saved but dad is not.—Mrs. Lilly Hargis, Mead, W. Va.

The healing of my daughter who has something wrong with her head and throat; the healing of my body.—Mrs. Leode Williford, Rt. 4, Dandridge, Tenn.

Sister Nancy C. Hebb who has been bedfast over three weeks and is unable to eat, to be healed; our sister, Melvinia Hebb, who has undergone two operations, to be healed; our brother who was run over by a car, to be healed.—Mrs. C. D. Newell, St. George, Tenn.

My brother, Alvin Murray, who is to undergo a very serious operation, he is in a backslidden condition and needs God in his life.—Mrs. Bonnie Balingier, Rt. 3, Cleveland, Tenn.

B. T. S. PAGE

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be thankful that we can do without the things that we want so that our men in service may have the necessary food to make them strong.

We hear people say, "I'm not going to buy war bonds. I'm going to save my money for the depression that's coming when the war is over. We'd probably never hear from those war bonds again." Listen, brother, Uncle Sam backs up everything he says. If we shouldn't get anything out of our bonds, it wouldn't be anything but right for us to buy them to help our country and our boys. If we don't help to win this war and Hitler gets over here, our money won't do us any good anyway. Christians, let's do our part!—Emma Dell Bristow.

The Christian's Duty in This National Crisis

My Christian duty in this national crisis is of great concern in my daily life. I feel that there is something definite for each one of us to do. The finest and best of our land—both boys and girls—are giving their lives for the protection of this great land of freedom and our religious privileges.

It seems a small part for the ones who are left behind to offer sincere and fervent prayers for all those on the battle-front and in training. Not only should we pray much, but strive in every way to be an example and to let our lives shine for Him. There is much personal work to be done and many sad hearts to be cheered and comforted. Smiles and kind words cost nothing, so let us scatter a few along the way in passing.

One of the greatest duties of a Christian, I think, is a deep and sincere interest in humanity. If we can show this interest, with the love of God encircling it, maybe we can cause a few lives to be brighter and the world a little better by our having lived in it.

Our Opportunity for Service

Much has been said concerning the average citizen's responsibility in this present war. Many are buying defense bonds and gathering scrap metals, while others have enlisted in the armed forces or offered their services in some way to the Government. As Christians and members of the Church of God, many of us have asked the question, "What can I do to help my country in this present crisis?"

Mr. Roosevelt, our president,

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REPORTS

Report of the Church of God at Rich Hill, Mo.

RICH HILL, Mo.—Our church is climbing the ladder for God. We have Sunday school with an average of about twenty. We have Y.P.E. each Wednesday evening; preaching services Saturday night and Sunday morning and night. We have only two Church of God folks; the others are worshipping in another building. They pulled away from the Church of God but the Lord is with us and several are looking toward the Church of God. Nine have been to the altar in the last two months.

If you know of a Church of God evangelist who will trust the Lord for his support, tell him to pray and, if he feels led of the Lord, to come and hold a revival. He could stay in the two rooms in the front of the church. Also, tell all the Church of God ministers passing through Rich Hill to stop over at the church here. It is on Main Street, upstairs over Potters' Cafe. Pray for me and my unsaved. —Mrs. Ben Ellis, 14 E. Walnut St.

Help Needed

BELGRADE, Mo.—I am still praising God for victory in my soul, for the sweet Holy Ghost I can feel abiding at the present time. We are having a struggle here now. We are still trying to have church and Sunday school but the enemy is surely fighting us. We are still without a church house and have no pastor and the folks are all losing interest. I have done all I know to do. We have been having Sunday school in a brush arbor through the summer months but we are going to bring it to my house for a while, until we see whether we are going to get a church house or not.

I love the Church of God better than any other church on earth and believe it is the church that Christ is coming after when He comes after His Bride. Pray for me and my family that we will always be found obedient to God, and if we can't get a church that will stand at Belgrade and stand for the whole Bible, that God will deliver us out. It is fourteen miles to the closest Church of God outside of this one. Pray for us here.—James E. Wright.

Michigan Driving Ahead

In spite of the fact that we are feeling the pinch of OLD MAN WINTER, the State of Michigan is driving ahead in the program for the Church of God. Recently the state purchased a beau-

state overseer's work.

One new church, one new Sunday school and four new Y. P. E.'s have been set in order.

In the extreme north, the City of Cadillac, the Church of God purchased a nice building with a debt of over five hundred dollars against it at the Assembly. At the time of the dedication, last week, they owed \$406.57, but at the dedicatory service we raised \$448.75. The church has forty members. We hope to set two more churches in order in the very near future, perhaps three.

Several successful revivals are in progress and a number are being saved, sanctified and filled with the Holy Ghost.

The Evangel drive is going over the top this year, for the Michigan ministers and members are subscribing for the paper and are getting others to subscribe for it. I believe every one of us is for a 100% Church of God program in Michigan and are "driving ahead" to that goal. A new church building has been purchased in Grand Ledge. Meetings are now going on in the new church building in Lansing. Much more could be said of the advancement, but above all we ask an interest in your prayers that God will be glorified and a great lot accomplished for His Church.—Sincerely, Paul H. Walker.

Moving Higher

SALISBURY, N. C.—The Church of God in Salisbury, N. C., is moving higher under the direction of our good pastor and wife, Brother and Sister Thomas. Our radio program is on every Monday morning from 11:30 till 12:00. We would like to hear from friends who hear the program, hoping it will be a blessing to you. Pray for the church in Salisbury.—Annie Skipper.

Kansas and Nebraska Ministers' Meeting

The Kansas and Nebraska ministers' meeting convened at the Pittsburg, Kans., Church of God, Oct. 3, 4. It was reported to be one of the best attended ministers' meetings held in Kansas. I think every pastor was present. Brother Henry, our beloved state overseer, had a well-arranged program for the work in our state next year, which was accepted by the ministers with very little discussion. They all seemed to have a mind to work. Brother Earl P. Paulk arrived a little late, but filled with the Spirit of God. He conducted two wonderful messages of spiritual fervor, and in the morning, vaileth mornin' in K.Y.C.

new fields are opening up and the churches are taking on new life. Pray for us.—Rev. W. C. Howard, reporter and pastor at Pittsburg, 1105 N. Taylor St.

Enjoyed Wonderful Home-coming

BETHEL, Miss.—I truly praise God for the great blessings He has given me. We had a grand time in the Lord Sunday, Oct. 18, at Bethel. There was a great home-coming day with a nice crowd and large dinner.

Brother W. L. Sharpe, of Greenville, preached the morning sermon, Brother L. A. Harville preached the afternoon sermons and Brother A. V. Everett preached Sunday night. The Lord wonderfully blessed in every sermon. Fifty dollars was given on our church. We now have about \$223 to repair our church.

Please pray for our Y. P. E. and Sunday school at Bethel.—Mrs. R. L. Cooksey, Isola, Miss.

Good Work Continues

COCOA, Fla.—Our new pastor, Claude Stokes, and his good wife who came to us September 13, are continuing the good work of Pastor Holland and his wife who are now working for God in Okeechobee. We are still having good interesting meetings, well attended, and God has taken charge in a wonderful way. Four have been added to the church; eight have been saved and sanctified, four filled with the Holy Ghost, and Sunday, Oct. 11, three were baptized in water.

We pray that God will bless our pastor and family and keep on giving us showers of blessings. Praise His good name!—E. A. Bramell, 150 Varr Ave.

REVIVALS

EAST TALLASSEE, Ala.—I praise the Lord for a two weeks' revival just closed. Brother Paul Hill, of Warrior, Ala., did the preaching. Six were saved, four sanctified, two filled with the Holy Ghost and the saints greatly encouraged. Brother Hill is a fine young preacher and is loved by everyone. He has a faithful wife in the gospel who is also loved by everyone. We appreciate young preachers like Brother Hill.—Rev. J. M. Ashmore, pastor, Box 321.

CARROLLTON, Ga.—"He that winneth souls is wise." We have just closed a revival here at the Church of God, Carrollton, Ga., with Revs. L. O. Peck and Earl Rackley in charge. Fifteen were saved, three sanctified, five filled with the Holy Ghost, three added to the church, and six reclaimed. These are blessed men; they will do any church

good. They both have house trailers. You can get either one or both of these preachers.—Pastor, C. N. O'Kelley, Box 303.

— — —
RED BAY, Ala.—We truly thank God for the wonderful revival just closed at Oak Grove church. Brother D. B. Bozeman, pastor, was in charge. The Lord was truly in our midst. Seekers who had been going to the altar for years prayed through and received the Holy Ghost. Eleven were saved, four sanctified, six filled with the Holy Ghost, six added to the church—four new and two by transfer—four baptized in water, and the saints greatly revived. We are looking for the greatest year we have ever had at Oak Grove. We are truly glad the Lord sent Brother Bozeman our way. We have a new four-room parsonage furnished and paid for. The Lord has certainly blessed us in this good work. We have raised our aged ministers' quota and are well under way with our dollar per member and expect to go over the top soon. We thank God for it all.—T. C. Collier, clerk, Rt. 1.

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WARREN, Ark.—Truly I am thankful for the Lord and what He still means to me in this day of evil and trouble of nations. Surely His mercy endureth forever and His promises are steadfast and sure.

We are also thankful for the four weeks' tent meeting conducted here in July. The first two weeks Rev. J. A. McCullar, pastor at Burdette, Ark., at that time, was in charge and gave some instructive messages. The last two weeks the revival was conducted by Rev. A. L. Burroughs, our esteemed overseer. All who have heard him preach under the gracious anointing of the Holy Ghost need not be told what a blessing he was to us. Although not many came to the altar and prayed through, some of the people who had not belonged to any church before were made to have a clearer view of the Church and what it stands for. Well, the Lord is wonderfully good to us. A church was set in order with seven new members and four transfers, making eleven, and three have come in since then.

We appreciate Rev. H. W. Williams and his wife who have come to be our pastor this year. We have \$153.00 pledged to buy two lots and most of it has been collected. Also, two buildings donated to the church with quite a bit of lumber in them to put on the church was a big help. We are worshipping now in a store building but hope to have a church and parsonage of our own soon. We desire the prayers of every saint that we will not be hindered in our efforts for Him and His Church.—Mrs. Clyde White, 12 Davenport.

— — —
MC LAIN, Miss.—We were led of the Lord to begin services at Leakesville in August at Brother Ernest Williams' home. The Lord began to bless from the very first, so we continued to hold services from house to house every week end. God has blessed this little effort with sixteen saved, fourteen sanctified, and seven baptized with the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance. Praise God! Our good district pastor, Brother Horace Taylor, was with us this past week end. He preached a wonderful message Saturday night and the Lord blessed. There was dancing, shouting and speaking in tongues. Praise God.

Sunday morning he gave us another good message on water baptism and set the church in order with twelve members. Sunday afternoon we had baptizing. Our highly esteemed district pastor then had to leave, but he did not leave until he had given us \$5.00 to help us rent or buy a building in which to hold services. May God bless him.

Please pray much for us at Leakesville that God will give us a building to worship in and that He will make Leakesville Church of God a soul-saving station. Now we thank every brother and sister who helped us in this work. We still want your help and prayers and we invite you to visit us any week end. Brother Taylor, hurry back and be with us again.—Jell Breland.

TESTIMONIES

From a Soldier Boy

Dear Friends, going on five years ago I was a sinner in Eccles, W. Va. Sister Coats came through there evangelizing and God marched me from a club house to the Church of God at Eccles and saved, sanctified and filled me with the Holy Ghost, and I have paid my dime to the dollar ever since and always will. We must keep the Church climbing. Pray for me, and if you feel led, write to a soldier.—Pvt. Elbert J. Olinger, Co. I., 7th Trn. Reg., T. 493, Camp Lee, Va.

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CRAB ORCHARD, Ky.—I praise the Lord for His healing power. I thank Him for our Y.P.E. We have fifty-six members.—Mrs. W. T. Sparks, R. R. 2.

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ASHTON, Mich.—I truly thank God for the Church of God Evangel. It has been a blessing to me in many ways. I have been saved for eight years and through my disobedience failed to receive the baptism until the 23d day of August, 1942, during Sunday school in our little church at Cadillac, Mich. Thank God from whom all blessings flow.

My [redacted] with asthma;

he can't sleep at night. The other morning around four o'clock he awakened me and told me he couldn't stand it much longer, he was so short of breath. He did not ask me to pray for him, but I took the Evangel and laid on him and prayed. In a few minutes God came on the scene and he could breathe normal again. Thank God, the greatest Physician of all times has reached out His hand of mercy once more.—Mrs. Leo Green.

Jesus Wonderfully Healed

I truly praise the Lord and Master that one day when the way was so dark and life seemed not worth living, I looked up to Jesus and He saved, sanctified and filled me with the sweet Holy Ghost. The way is bright now and life is worth living, for God is with me. I truly praise God this morning for His wonderful healing power. Jesus has been our healer over two years. After the Lord filled me with the Holy Ghost, Jesus asked me to take Him as our healer. I am glad I obeyed. The very night we took Jesus as our healer old Satan began to work. Our little girl took sick, but Jesus wonderfully healed her. About one week later our little boy took sick. About two weeks I had a burden. It seemed I could not stand it. Our neighbors talked and said we were going to let him die, but dear brother and sister, he did not die. I was about fourteen miles from home working when it seemed I could not stand it any longer. Old Satan said to me, "You lay there and haven't had a doctor. Now he is going to die. What will the people say about you?" After I got to the place that I said, "Lord, I know you can heal him, but if it is not your will to heal him take him on to heaven," dear brothers and sisters, that old burden rolled away and there was joy. Praise God, I knew the Lord had healed him. That evening my wife met me with our baby. Praise God for His healing power. It matters not what your trouble is, look up to Jesus, obey God, for He is able and can heal you. We find in Jesus all we need. He has healed us many times. Dear saints of God, we need to pray more, work more, get the Holy Ghost fire burning so that backsliders that are cold and away from God will get warmed up and on the firing line again for God needs them to work while it is day.

Please remember me in prayer, that God's will will be done in my life. May God bless each one who reads this is my prayer. I also have an unspoken request which I would like for you to remember in prayer. Pray for me and pray for our little boy and that he will stand true to the end.—and

FAITH—HOW TO PUT IT IN PRACTICE

(Continued from page 8)

pethetic to those of you who are suffering in body and as a result of that suffering are low in faith, when I say that none of us have ever been in quite such a discouraging position as Jonah. Sympathy is not faith. In fact, sympathy and self-pity are often very destructive to faith. Where there is faith there is no longer need of sympathy, for through faith the cause of your suffering is about to be removed.

Rest Assured

Whether you are sick, or a backslider, or in financial trouble, or misunderstood by your friends, or without friends, still Jonah was worse off than that. He was in the belly of a whale, at the bottom of the ocean. No friend could help him. Money was of no value. I'm sure that after three days in that airless, foul place he felt as sick as anyone ever did and still live. And to top it all off, he was a backslidden holiness preacher, running from the will of God. Read his own description of his woeful circumstances in Jonah, chapter 2, ". . . out of the belly of hell cried I . . . the floods compassed me about . . . I am cast out of thy sight . . . ; I went down to the bottoms of the mountains; the earth with her bars was about me forever."

In the midst of all this suffering Jonah makes one of the most marvelous and least quoted statements in all the Bible. He said, Jonah 2:8, "They that observe lying vanities forsake their own mercy." In other words, if we begin looking at our terrible circumstances (which are lies in the eyes of faith and BY faith already gone), then we FORSAKE our own mercy. That is, the mercy God would have extended to us had we believed. Then it doesn't matter about your circumstances. Conditions mean nothing to Christ. It is not our condition but our faith that counts. A cancer is no more difficult than a pimple to God. It is we who make the giants in Caanan land bigger than God.

Faith in Action

So in other words, Jonah said, "God is bigger than my circumstances." "I will look again toward thy holy temple," V. 4. "I cried by reason of mine affliction unto the Lord," V. 2. And in verse nine we find the real secret of Jonah's deliverance. He said, "But I will sacrifice unto thee with the voice of THANKSGIVING." Notice he said it was a sacrifice. He didn't feel like praising the Lord. It wasn't a holiness camp meeting. He looked around at the inside of that ram's fish and it didn't look decently the staffed the air and it they were p^{re}age in States

His head hurt and he felt nauseated and his heart was dark. But he stretched a leg and said, "Praise the Lord." The old whale blinked and said, "I thought that fellow was dead long ago." Jonah felt a touch of faith and said, "HALLELUJAH!" throwing out both arms in a gesture of praise, and kicking the other leg. Well sir, by that time he felt so good I can see him putting on an old-fashioned holiness, Holy Ghost dance right there inside that whale. The Lord spoke to that fish to get on up out of there and back toward land and discharge his cargo, and He didn't have to speak twice, for that huge fish already had his motor running and was shifting into high. He just couldn't stand that hallelujah preacher putting on a camp meeting there inside. And, my friend, may I say in all love that when the enemy comes in like a flood and tries to fasten his dark diseases and discouragement upon you, if you'll just turn loose a barrage of praise on him, he'll get out of there in a hurry. For there's one thing that the devil can't tolerate, and that God loves, and that's for the saints of God to praise the Lord.

Results of Faith

Paul and Silas got a call of the Lord to hold a revival over in Macedonia. They had tried to go several other places where there were perhaps bigger crowds, or more money, or better churches, but the Spirit forbade them (Acts 16:6-9), so then they got their revival call to Macedonia and said they were sure this was the call of the Lord (V. 10). They had a good little revival there and then the devil went to work. They were captured and beaten until their backs were like raw hamburger, and locked deep in the darkest cell of the prison, with their hands and feet fastened in stocks. And it was night.

Well, if ever a fellow had a fine opportunity to grumble a little about his lot, here was the time. Paul might have said, "Well, Silas, I guess we missed the Lord that time, eh?" And Silas could have said, "Yeah, I never did believe much in them visions no way. Why didn't we go on over to Bithynia? We'd have had a lot better revival there and got better offerings and missed all this mess."

But no! Despite horribly mangled, bleeding backs; despite their evident defeat; despite the camp cell, locked hands and feet, and black, black night, I hear the voice of Paul through the gloom, "Glory," and Silas, "Amen, Jesus!" and Paul, "Glory to God! Glory, GLORY, OH, HALLEJULAH! Ain't it great to be saved, Silas?" Silas—talking in tongues and praising the Lord. Paul bursts forth into a fit of "Oh, it's GLORY just walk fervent two" Silas wings down a vaileth must you:

time they started to repeat the chorus God joined in on the bass and shook the prison doors open and shook their shackles off and they went on back and finished their revival. Well glory! I tell you folks, no matter how dark your prison, or how strong the shackles that bind you, just lift your voice in the praise of faith unto God and He'll throw the devil out and set you free. Acts 16:23-34. In 2 Cor. 10:4 we read, "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal (that is, not natural weapons), but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds."

And Paul continues by at once warning us against the great destroyer of our faith and of our health, the exact opposite of praise, IMAGINATIONS. Verse five, "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

Praise ye the Lord!

God—the Strength of His People

(Continued from page 3)

Precious Promises

4. To whom do the precious promises belong? They are the common inheritance of those who, by the faith of the gospel, are reconciled to God. "That by two immutable things, by which it is impossible for God to lie, they may have a strong consolation who have fled for refuge, to lay hold on the hope set before them which hope we have as an anchor to the soul, both sure and steadfast."

In accordance with these promises is the testimony of experience. Witness the experience of Abraham, of Moses, of David, and of the apostles, by whom, though weak as other men, such wonders of grace were done both in their acts of faith and the success of their efforts in the work of redemption. Witness the whole list of worthies of whom the apostle makes mention to the Hebrews, who, "out of weakness were made strong, waxed valiant in fight, turned to flight the armies of the aliens," and what is far more glorious, "wrought righteousness, obtained promises, and were tortured, not accepting of deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection." Witness the multitude of the people of God in all ages; for which one of them all, in the endless variety of duties, services and trials allotted them, notwithstanding their conscious weakness and temporary defeats and backslidings, has not upon the whole been sustained in the faith and patience of the saints, and been carried triumphantly through? Witness also the preservation and progress of the Church of God by their means from age to age. Fires of persecutions and floods of temptation, the power of states and the sub-

tlety of Satan and his hosts have been employed to destroy her, and still she sits and sings, "God is our refuge and strength, therefore will we not fear. The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge." The Lord will give strength to His people.

CHRISTIAN DIPLOMACY

(Continued from page 5)

man of God should possess; i. e., human expression prompted by the love of God can be the greatest resource for good within our grasp or that human expression void of love and the gift of understanding is a curse which has strewn the shores of time with frightful shipwrecks of faith. The ghastly shadows of these failures will substantially subtract from the glorious rewards that might have otherwise been enjoyed by men who had a zeal for God but were without knowledge.

HEBREWS 6:1-6

(Continued from page 7)

you were a Christian indeed. Rom. 6:6.

But—when you backslide and fall away from your experiences, do you not allow the "old man" to be "resurrected" and in turn "crucify" the "new man"? Where do you crucify Him afresh—on the cross? No, but UNTO YOURSELF. Isn't that what it says: "seeing they crucify TO THEMSELVES the Son of God afresh"? In other words, the principle of holiness and the "new man" are no longer within the heart, but are crucified. Christ is crucified that Barabbas might go free.

Only one more thought remains. How is He (Son of God) put to an open shame? Well, does not the very fact that a person who falls from the wonderful experiences to which he has publicly testified so many times, bring reproach upon the cause? "Is not the name of God blasphemed among the Gentiles through you?" Rom. 2:24. A backslider brings shame upon the Church and tends to destroy confidence in the saving power of the blood. But he CAN be renewed again; however, it is not reasonable to believe that one must go to him and preach again the things he used to have in order for him to be renewed. The backslider knows already what is required, therefore, the minister is not particularly obligated to the backslider but rather to the man who has never heard the story of Jesus.

And so we now have come to a "discussion of values" which will follow this article in the next issue. May God bless you.

B. T. S. PAGE

(Continued from page 11)

given the answer to that interrogation in a recent speech by declaring, "If America would win the war, she...



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get back to God and the principles of old religion." It has fallen our duty to America to God, to pray, to work, and by self-exemplification to set an example of old time

on the home

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